

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 have been previously allowed. By this amendment, claims 3 and 13 are amended, and claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-11, 16-17 and 19-21 are cancelled. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Information Disclosure Statement

Further to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 6, 2003, we enclose a complete translation of DE 32 30 607 A1. This translation is being submitted to further assist the Examiner in reviewing the foreign reference.

Further to an Information Disclosure Statement filed May 15, 2003, we enclose partial translations of JP-A-11-336581 and JP-A-2000-115911.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-22 are allowed. However, claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-11, 16-17, and 19-21 are cancelled. Additionally, claim 3 is amended to incorporate the features of cancelled claims 6 and 7. Further, claim 13 is amended to incorporate the features of cancelled claims 16 and 17. No new matter has been added.

III. Conclusion

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:HNS/cfr

Attachment:
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: December 19, 2003

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